

REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

The amendments to the claims further define what the applicants regard as their invention and/or are editorial in nature. Full support for the amendments can be found throughout the present application. Accordingly, no questions of new matter should arise, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 19 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Prior to discussing the rejections set forth in the Office Action, we note that at page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 4. However, in the Office Action, the Examiner provides no reason or reference for rejecting claim 4. Accordingly, we believe that the Examiner's rejection of claim 4 at page 1 of the Office Action is in error and claim 4 is in condition for allowance. Correction of this error is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claim 1 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of EP 0 496 545 A2 (hereinafter the '545 publication). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, in part, a process for a continuous production of a glass-fiber reinforced resin-plate, wherein a mixture of resin and sand is applied to the top surface of the not-yet hardened of the base material to provide an anti-slip properties.

The '545 publication relates to in-line fabrication of composite sheet material. The '545 publication, however, fails to teach or suggest anti-slip properties, particularly anti-slip properties achieved by a surface treatment of the top-surface of the base material as recited in amended claim 1 of the present application. According the col. 5, line 52 – col. 6, line 40,

in one embodiment, the upper film layer is removed from the partially cured composite material layer and a layer of uncured material is applied to the partially cured composite. In this example, the uncured materials do not include resin or sand. Thus, the embodiment described at cols. 5 and 6 of the '545 publication does not teach or suggest a mixture of resin and sand surface treatment that provides an anti-slip property to the sheet.

In a later embodiment, as described at col. 6, lines 48, the upper film layer is removed from the partially cured composite material layer just prior to application of a layer of particulate material. According to the '545 publication, in this embodiment, the particulate material, which may be a silica, feldspar, or glass bubbles, may be used as a surface coating or it may be impregnated into the partially cured composite material layer by a roller. After the application of the particulate material layer, an upper film layer is then applied to the top of the modified partially cured composite material. The partially cured modified sheeting is then passed through ovens for complete curing. The sheeting which exits the curing ovens is completely cured panel which includes the particulate matter impregnated therein. Similar to the earlier embodiment, this embodiment of the '545 publication does not teach the step of applying a mixture of sand and resin to provide anti-slip property.

The embodiments described in the '545 publications are very different from one another and provide no motivation to one skilled in the art to combine each of the embodiments together. Furthermore, the embodiments described in the '545 publication describe a sheet without a top layer that is coated with a mixture of resin and sand to provide an anti-slip property, as recited in claim 1 of the present application. Additionally, the '545 publication does not teach or suggest bonding resin and glass fibers by heating to a plate-like base material, and then cooling-down the base material until the base material is partially

gelatinized, but the surface of the base material which is to be coated, is not yet completely hardened. Thus, '545 publication does not teach or suggest claim 1 of the present application and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 5-7 are dependent directly on claim 1; therefore, the reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claim 1 over the '545 publication apply equally here. Thus, these claims are also patentable.

The Examiner rejects claim 9 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of the '545 publication. For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9, as amended, is patentable over the '545 publication for substantially the same reason that claim 1 is patentable. Additionally, amended claim 9 recites the application of resin and sand separately and then "e) rolling-in of the sand in the resin layer applied in step c)." The '545 publication does not disclose or suggest that the sand be worked into the resin. For this additional reason, claim 9 is patentable over the '545 publication.

Claims 10, 11, and 14-17 are dependent directly on claim 9; therefore, the reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claim 9 apply equally here.

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 12 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '545 publication and further in view of Holmes (U.S. patent no. 4,243,719) in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

We believe that this rejection includes a typographical error and the rejection of claims 2 and 12 should read claims 3 and 12. Moreover, claims 2 and 12 (or 3 and 12) are dependent directly on claims 1 and 9. Therefore, the reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claims 1 and 9 apply equally here. Thus, claims 2 and 12 (or 3 and 12)

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are patentable over the '545 publication in view of Holmes and this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejects claims 3 and 13 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '545 publication and further in view of Conard (U.S. patent no. 3,980,610) in paragraph 7 of the Office Action.

We believe that this rejection includes a typographical error and the rejection of claims 3 and 13 should read claims 4 and 13. Moreover, claims 3 and 13 (or 4 and 13) are dependent directly on claims 1 and 9. Therefore, the reasons set forth above with respect to the patentability of claims 1 and 9 apply equally here. Thus, claims 3 and 13 or 4 and 13 are patentable over the '545 publication in view of Conard and this rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1980. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone should there be any remaining questions as to the patentability of the pending claims.

Date

June 14, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1a, 1b, and 2. These sheets, which include Figs. 1a, 1b, and 2 replace the original sheets including Figs. 1a, 1b, and 2. In Figs. 1a, 1b, and 2, previously omitted term "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

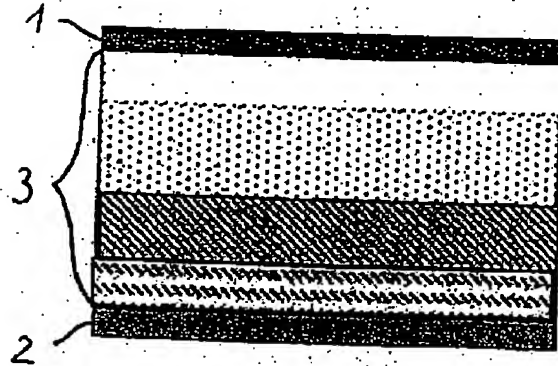


Fig. 1a

Added the term
"Prior Art"

Prior Art

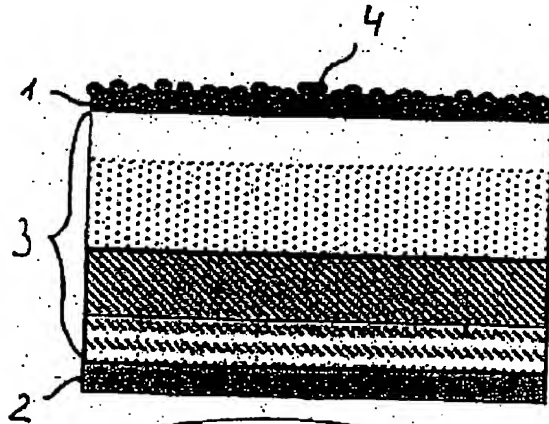


Fig. 1b

Added the term
"Prior Art"

Prior Art

